

Remarks

Claims 13, 14, and 16-25 remain pending in the above-referenced application and are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

Claims 13, 14, 16-23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,983,867 to Sakamoto ("Sakamoto") in view of United States Patent No. 4,755,732 to Ando ("Ando").

In order to reject a claim for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), not only must the prior art teach or suggest each element of the claim, the prior art must also suggest combining the elements in the manner contemplated by the claim. See Northern Telecom, Inc. v. Datapoint Corp., 908 F.2d 931, 934 (Fed. Cir. 1990), cert. denied 111 S.Ct. 296 (1990); In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 834 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Claims 13 and 23 recite that a rotary actuator includes an arrangement for exerting a corrective torque on a permanently magnetized rotor.

Sakamoto states that a hybrid-type stepping motor includes "a rotor including disc-like magnetic poles each having many pole teeth in the outer periphery, and including a permanent magnet magnetized in the axial direction to form 2 poles and having opposite ends respectively abutting against the disc-like magnetic poles thereby to constitute the hybrid-type stepping motor, and the number of pole teeth, Z, of the rotor and a step angle are designed to satisfy particular conditions." (Col. 7, lines 48-58). The motor of Sakamoto only includes a rotor with magnetic poles and a magnet. Sakamoto does not teach that a rotary actuator includes an arrangement for exerting a corrective torque on a permanently magnetized rotor, as recited in claims 13 and 23.

Ando describes a microangle drive circuit for a stepping motor that includes "output elements pairs of which are connected to one another in series, a sense resistance connected to the output elements in series to make a motor coil control circuit for a phase or coil, a stepping motor control circuit made for n-phases, and motor coils. These circuit and system increase accuracy in rotation and stop by dividing the rotation angles of the stepping motor into microangles." (Abstract, lines 1-9). Ando does not teach that a rotary actuator includes an arrangement for exerting a corrective torque on a permanently magnetized rotor, as recited in claims 13 and 23.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Sakamoto and Ando is insufficient to support the obviousness rejection of claims 13 and 23.

Claims 14, 16-22, and 25, which depend from allowable claim 13, are similarly allowable by virtue of their dependence on allowable claim 13.

For at least the reasons discussed above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13, 14, 16-23 and 25 is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto in view of Ando and further in view of United States Patent No. 4,803,389 to Ogawa et al. ("Ogawa"). Since Ogawa does not overcome the deficiencies noted above with respect to Sakamoto and Ando, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Consideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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